**I CLAIM:**

1. A de-hooking device for releasing fish that have been caught by a fishhook that is connected to a fishing line, comprising:

a handle member adapted to be grasped by the hand of a user;

an integral de-hooking element extending from said handle member and having an elongate shank section of substantially straight configuration defining an operating end; said operating end having a tightly bent loop of U-shaped configuration and a substantially straight end section disposed in spaced relation with said elongate shank section and defining an elongate narrow gap therewith; and

a terminal section extending from said substantially straight end section and being oriented in outwardly diverging relation with said elongate shank section.

2. The de-hooking device of claim 1, comprising:

said integral de-hooking element being composed of metal and having an annular cross-sectional configuration.

3. The de-hooking device of claim 1, comprising:

said terminal section being of substantially straight configuration and having a bend with said substantially straight end section and being oriented by the bend to obtuse angular relation with said substantially straight end section.

4. The de-hooking device of claim 1, comprising:

said integral de-hooking element being pivotally connected with said handle member and being moveable from a closed position where said integral de-hooking element lies along said

handle member and an open position where said integral de-hooking element is substantially aligned with said handle member.

5. The de-hooking device of claim 1, comprising:

said handle member defining a handle length and defining an elongate slot extending substantially along said handle length, said handle member further defining a pivot receptacle being oriented in substantially normal relation with said elongate slot;

a pivot end being defined by said elongate substantially straight shank of said integral de-hooking element and being located for pivotal movement within said elongate slot of said handle member, said pivot end defining a pivot opening; and

a pivot element extending through said pivot receptacle and said pivot opening and securing said integral de-hooking element in pivotal relation with said handle member and permitting pivotal movement of said integral de-hooking element from a closed position where a substantial portion of said integral de-hooking element is located within said elongate slot and a full open position where said integral de-hooking element is substantially fully exposed and is substantially aligned with said handle member.

6. The de-hooking device of claim 5, comprising:

said handle member being of integral construction.

7. The de-hooking device of claim 5, comprising:

said handle member having a pair of scales being disposed in spaced relation with said elongate slot located therebetween.

8. The de-hooking device of claim 5, comprising:

a plurality of ridges and depressions being defined by said handle member enabling efficient and secure gripping of said handle member by the hand of a user.

9. The de-hooking device of claim 5, comprising:

said pivot end being defined by a substantially circular pivot end portion of said integral de-hooking element having frictional engagement with surfaces of said elongate slot and resisting free pivotal movement of said integral de-hooking element relative to said elongate handle member.

10. The de-hooking device of claim 1, comprising:

said de-hooking device being buoyant in water.

11. A de-hooking device for releasing fish that have been caught by a fishhook that is connected to a fishing line, comprising:

a handle member adapted to be grasped by the hand of a user and defining an elongate storage slot;

an integral de-hooking element being in pivotal connection with said handle member and pivotal movement of said integral de-hooking element from a closed position where a substantial portion of said integral de-hooking element is located within said elongate slot and a full open position where said integral de-hooking element is substantially fully exposed and is substantially aligned with said handle member, said integral de-hooking element having an elongate shank section of substantially straight configuration defining an operating end; said operating end having a tightly bent loop of U-shaped configuration and a substantially straight

end section disposed in spaced relation with said elongate shank section and defining an elongate narrow gap therewith; and

a terminal section extending from said substantially straight end section and being oriented in outwardly diverging relation with said elongate shank section.

12. The de-hooking device of claim 11, comprising:

said integral de-hooking element being composed of metal and having an annular cross-sectional configuration.

13. The de-hooking device of claim 11, comprising:

said terminal section being of substantially straight configuration and having a bend with said substantially straight end section and being oriented by the bend to obtuse angular relation with said substantially straight end section.

14. The de-hooking device of claim 11, comprising:

said handle member defining a pivot receptacle being oriented in substantially normal relation with said elongate slot;

a pivot end being defined by said elongate substantially straight shank of said integral de-hooking element and being located for pivotal movement within said elongate slot of said handle member, said pivot end defining a pivot opening; and

a pivot element extending through said pivot receptacle and said pivot opening and securing said integral de-hooking element in pivotal relation with said handle member and permitting pivotal movement of said integral de-hooking element from a closed position where a substantial portion of said integral de-hooking element is located within said elongate slot and a

full open position where said integral de-hooking element is substantially fully exposed and is substantially aligned with said handle member.

15. The de-hooking device of claim 11, comprising:

said handle member being of integral construction.

16. The de-hooking device of claim 11, comprising:

said handle member having a pair of scales being disposed in spaced relation with said elongate slot located therebetween.

17. The de-hooking device of claim 11, comprising:

a plurality of ridges and depressions being defined by said handle member enabling efficient and secure gripping of said handle member by the hand of a user.

18. The de-hooking device of claim 11, comprising:

said pivot end being defined by a substantially circular pivot end portion of said integral de-hooking element having frictional engagement with surfaces of said elongate slot and resisting free pivotal movement of said integral de-hooking element relative to said elongate handle member.

19. The de-hooking device of claim 11, comprising:

said de-hooking device being buoyant in water.